

SUMMARY OF OPA ORDERS ISSUED DURING WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 4, AFFECTING AGRICULTURE

Prepared especially for State Extension Directors

By the OPA

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Price ceilings were established on flue-cured leaf tobacco in the OPA action of most interest to the farmer during the past week.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO

Flue-cured tobacco, used almost entirely in the manufacture of cigarettes, has been brought under a temporary 60-day price ceiling at current levels (OPA release 630). The regulation, effective August 31, 1942, is designed to stop an upward trend that already has carried flue-cured tobacco to top prices since 1919. With the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture, no private purchaser may buy flue-cured leaf tobacco on any loose-leaf market at prices that will average out higher than this weighted average price on purchases made between August 24 and 28. The temporary ceiling does not apply to purchases made for the account of the Commodity Credit Corporation or to purchases of loose-leaf tobacco, which are resold in loose-leaf form at regular auction warehouse sales.

Average prices of all flue-cured tobacco sold on auction markets during the August 24 - 28 period was \$34.86 per hundred pounds, the Department of Agriculture announced (OWI-424).

FROZEN FRUITS, BERRIES, AND VEGETABLES

Wholesalers and retailers of the 1942 frozen fruit, berry, and vegetable pack may pass on to consumers the exact amount - and no more - which packers' maximum prices were recently raised to take account of increased raw material and other costs since last year (OPA-624).

PEAS AND TOMATOES

Canners who sell standard grade tomatoes and peas to the commercial trade at the Department of Agriculture's support prices must not add to these prices any charges for brokerage or other services (OPA-T-86).

APPLES

Apple processors are permitted an increase in their maximum prices for canned apples, applesauce, apple juice, cider, and dried apples (OPA-657). These adjustments, covering increased raw fruit and other costs, follow previous modifications of the ceiling prices for other canned and dried fruits. Increases approximate 18 $\frac{1}{4}$ percent over the 1941 prices of canned apples and applesauce.

WINES

California wine prices will be increased in the near future, following announcement by the Department of Agriculture of comparable and other prices under section 3 of the Emergency Price Control Act for grapes crushed commercially in

California for wine and brandy (OPA-645). It is expected such determination will be made public around mid-September. While it is not known what prices the Department of Agriculture will arrive at, preliminary indications are that they will be such as to require an upward revision of the California wine ceiling.

SOFT DRINKS

An alternative pricing method setting dollars-and-cents ceilings for low-priced soft drinks has been announced (OPA-613). This optional pricing method, however, will have almost no effect at retail, and will not alter the price or size of the nickel bottle in which 85 percent of all soft drinks are sold.

SUGAR

Additional sugar allotments were authorized for industrial users in substantially increased population areas (OPA-626).

BED SPRINGS

OPA set dollars-and-cents prices for four "war models" of wood-frame bed springs (OPA-639).

HIDES

A question-and-answer release on problems chiefly concerning small packers has been issued by OPA on hides, kips, and calfskins (OPA-T-87).

PAPER

Paper merchants dealing in kraft wrapping and kraft bag papers were warned by Price Administrator Leon Henderson that addition of manufacturers' zone and quantity differentials in certain sales of less than carload lots is illegal under Maximum Price Regulation No. 182 (OPA-T-95).

RUBBER HEELS

V - for Victory - is the new trademark which must be stamped on the four grades of Victory rubber heels now being made, OPA's Consumer Division announced (W-73).

OPA announced conditions under which transportation costs may be added to the maximum prices for rubber heels sold to shoe repairmen (OPA-621).

BINDER TWINE

OPA issued a formula for determining retail prices on binder twine which will give sellers the same margin of return as last year (OPA-T-84).

RAYON YARNS

Producers of rayon yarns and staple fiber are permitted to choose the carrier by which shipment is to be made and to charge interest for delinquent accounts (OPA-T-81).

WOOLENS

"Similar fabrics" sold by manufacturers of woollens and worsted goods must be priced under a new method (OPA-640).

NAILS

Prices which distributors and dealers may charge for 1,500 tons of cut nails produced and allocated to peanut growers under a WPB order were set by OPA (OPA-638).

WOODEN AGRICULTURAL CONTAINERS

OPA made certain minor changes in Maximum Price Regulation No. 186 (Western Wooden Agricultural Containers) (OPA-635).

RELIEF

A small group of retail dealers in three brands of Pennsylvania-grade lubricating oils along the West Coast who did not raise their prices in March 1942, although their competitors did, were allowed by OPA to bring their prices into line with those charged by the majority of the dealers. The retail increase amounts to 5 cents a quart.

Because of increased costs since June 1941, when its last contract price was agreed upon, the Shamrock Towing Co. was allowed to charge the City of New York \$146,689 for towing service during the year beginning July 1, 1942 (OPA-T-90).

An amendment has been issued to make clear that maximum prices for all radio apparatus and parts covered by Maximum Price Regulation No. 136 are those charged by sellers on March 31, 1942 (OPA-634).

ADJUSTMENT APPLICATIONS

OPA further decentralized its administration of price control at retail levels by establishing a simpler and faster procedure for handling retailers' applications for ceiling price adjustments (OPA-648).

GASOLINE

Gasoline rationing has been extended to the Virgin Islands (OPA-637). Drastically curtailed rations of motor fuel in Puerto Rico were announced, where gasoline rationing became effective August 1.

COAL

Where bituminous coal is delivered along the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers on river transportation facilities owned or controlled by the producer or distributor, the seller of the coal may add to his ceiling price charges for such transportation equal to the average charge made for the same service in October 1941 (OPA-T-88).

BICYCLES

Used-bicycle dealers were warned that such sales are subject to the General Maximum Price Regulation which places the ceiling on prices at the highest levels in March (OPA-622).

AUTOMOBILES

New automobile purchase certificates will not be granted to applicants who since January 1, 1942, have disposed of cars adequate for their needs (OPA-628). This is qualified in the event that there were justifying circumstances at the time the cars were disposed of, however. Test of the adequacy of such cars will be the same as it would be if they were owned currently by the applicant.

TANK TRUCKS

Tank trucks were authorized to charge rates above March levels - subject, however, to OPA adjustment (OPA-647). This recognized the shifting of tank trucks to new routes and territories to meet emergency transportation needs.

SERVICES

Stevedoring, car loading and unloading rates and charges were exempted from price control when these services are supplied under a contract for any war procurement agency (OPA-649). This was done to facilitate dispatch of essential war materials. However, stevedoring and car loading and unloading when performed other than under a contract with a war procurement agency remain subject to price regulation.

OPA issued a sample statement showing the method by which shops servicing electrical and gas appliances and radios must file with their local War Price and Rationing Board by September 10. (T-821).

Effective September 1, a statement of ceiling prices for all common services - dry cleaning, shoe repairing, laundering, automobile repairing, etc. - must be available for public inspection in every establishment subject to the OPA Services Regulation (OPA-655).

OPA provided specific ways in which mail-order establishments selling at retail should post ceiling prices for cost-of-living commodities (OPA-T-85).